

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 823

By Campfield

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears U18 AA hockey team upon completing an extraordinary season and capturing the 2013-2014 National Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletic teams that, through magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports team is the Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears U18AA hockey team; with exceptional talent and tremendous stamina, the Jr. Ice Bears captured the National Championship in Wayne, New Jersey, on April 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Robert Despins, the Jr. Ice Bears achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2013-2014 season, establishing an excellent overall record of forty-three wins to only five losses and three ties; and

WHEREAS, the Jr. Ice Bears earned the right to represent Tennessee at the USA Hockey National Championships, when they beat the Nashville Jr. Predators in February; and

WHEREAS, throughout the tournament, the Jr. Ice Bears dominated by outscoring their opponents twenty-seven goals to eleven; they defeated West Virginia and South Carolina, with one loss to Montana, in round robin play before moving on to defeat Utah and Idaho in order to secure the national championship; and

WHEREAS, although many of the players on this team have previously played in national championships together as a 14 and under team and a 16 and under team, this is the first time that a Knoxville hockey team has won a National Title; and

WHEREAS, the members of this championship team include Felix Bjurstrom, Nicholas McGregor, Josh Maine, Drake Lamm, Gage Despins, Braden Pichel, Jake Fountaine, Lucas

Despins, Michael Roulier, Austin Scheidt, Corey Staples, Aaron Liner, Connor Clarke, Michael Thompson, Austen Thompson, Mason Jobe, Josh Quarles, Jayce Dorman, Kyle Lindsay, and Mitch Kestner; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Head Coach Robert Despins, the team enjoyed the support and leadership of assistant coaches Jeff Lindsay, Lance Fountaine, Dave Staples, and KJ Voorhees and managers Dawn Liner and Dave Roulier; and

WHEREAS, aside from their championship title, the Knoxville team enjoyed great success, as they placed first in the South Youth Travel Hockey League, won the Nashville Country Western Hockey Tournament, and placed second in the Pittsburgh Presidents Day Cup Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of boys not only made possible a championship hockey season, but also surely points to their future success; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears upon their successful hockey season and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Head Coach Robert Despins and the Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears hockey team upon capturing the 2013-2014 National Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.